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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether there is any objection to the village officers being entrusted with the execution of village works under the Local Development Works Scheme? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I do not know how it arises. A separate question may be put."

Working of the shutters in the Karikkalavakkam taluk

* 287 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a Member of the Board of Revenue inspected the Karikkalavakkam tank, Trivellore taluk, Chingleput district, recently and made a report to the Government about the working of the shutters in the said tank on the southern side;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of the report on the table of the House; and

(*c*) whether the Government have taken a final decision in the matter and if so, the orders passed thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by placing a copy of the report on the table of the House.

" (*c*) Yes. Orders have been issued to proceed with the work of converting the existing calingula into a weir and providing screw gearing shutters to the scour vents. Instructions have also been issued to the Chief Engineer to lower the sill level of three of the vents to plus 89·0 feet and keep the existing sill level of 92·45 feet for the other three vents."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Manufacture of articles in the Madras Penitentiary, Central Jail, etc.

* 27 *Q.*—SRI T. M. DAIVASIKHAMANI ACHARIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the articles manufactured in the Madras Penitentiary, Central Jail and Certified School, Chingleput and the Central Jails at Cuddalore, Tanjore, Tiruchirappalli, Vellore and Salem;

(*b*) whether they are manufactured with the aid of prison labour or outside labour or both;

(*c*) whether they are made available to the public for sale; if so, how and through what agencies;

(*d*) why these articles of jail manufacture are not exhibited in public museums or exhibitions;

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(e) whether articles manufactured with prison labour are sold at a cost less than the market price and if not, why not; and

(f) the aggregate cost or turnover of jail-made goods of all jails in the State during the year 1953–54?

A.—(a) to (f) A statement[a] furnishing the information is placed on the table of the House.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—POINT OF INFORMATION *RE.* PRESS STATEMENTS ON THE UTILIZATON OF THE PALAR RIVER WATERS.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" Yesterday the Hon. Minister for Public Works while replying to a number of supplementary questions regarding the dispute between the Mysore and Madras States over the sharing of Palar waters was reported to have said :

' The Madras Government are considering a proposal to request the Government of India to constitute a Council under Article 263 of the Constitution of India to make enquiries into the matter and suggest suitable remedies '.

It is also reported in the Press that enquiries at the Secretariat show that the Madras Government have sent a communication to the Government of India suggesting the constitution of such a Council under Article 263 of the Constitution. The Hon. Mr. Manickavelu is also reported to have told newspaper reporters that a reply from the Government of India was being awaited which implies that the communication has already been sent from here. Sir, two contradictory statements of Hon. Ministers appearing in the Press on the same day will not give good impression as far as the Government are concerned. I want a clarification in respect of this matter."

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" At that time I was not aware that a communication had been sent. Afterwards I learnt that a note to that effect has been circulated amongst us. That is why I said that it was proposed to send a communication to the Government of India. In fact my Colleague was telling me that it had been sent but I told him that I would verify it. So, there is no contradiction in the matter."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" In that case an explanation is due from the Hon. Minister for Revenue because he did not correct the Hon. Minister for Public Works when he said that a communication was proposed to be sent. At that time he ought to have corrected him by saying that a communication had already been sent."

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" In fact he was telling me that a communication had been sent but I wanted to verify it."

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on pages 897–899 infra.